

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method implemented by a computing device for real-time dynamic switching between a first service provider providing a Web-based service for users at a user's computer device over a communications network and a second service provider adapted for providing said service for users at a user's computer device, said method comprising the steps of:

~~[[a]] establishing switching criterion for deciding when to switch service provision between said first service provider and second service provider;~~

~~[[b]] automatically monitoring said communications network for determining satisfaction of said switching criterion compliance of service-level guarantees by said first service provider at said user's computer device; and,~~

~~[[c]] upon determining non-compliance of said service-level guarantees, locating a second service provider for providing said service according to said service-level guarantees;~~

~~replicating state information associated with said user's use of said service provided by said first service provider at said user's computer device;~~

~~terminating provision of said service provided by said first service provider; and
switching service provision to said user's computer device from said between-first-and second service provided provider over said communications network; and,~~

~~migrating said state information maintained up to the time of switching to said service provided by said second service provider, wherein the switching occurs in a manner substantially transparent to the user based on satisfaction of said switching criterion.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:
maintaining state information associated with said user's use of said service provided by said first service provider; and,

~~migrating any state information maintained up to the time of switching to said second service, wherein the switching occurs in a manner substantially transparent to the user.~~

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including the steps of:
establishing criterion for determining service fees to be charged by a switching service provider for providing said automatic switching; and,
communicating fee information to said user.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said switching ~~step-e~~ is performed automatically without user knowledge.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said switching ~~step-e~~ is performed at behest of a user or, upon a user providing approval for the switch when a switching criterion is satisfied.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said user includes: an individual, or a group of individuals.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said service provided to said users over a communications network includes a service provisioning one or more of: text, multimedia content, images, broadcasts, recipes, functions for a computer, and sensory stimulations.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the switching includes transfer of service properties.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second services are Web services, a service provided by the switching provider including a Web service.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, where ~~the~~ a switching criterion includes one or more selected from the group comprising: said first service provider is unavailable; the service provided by first service provider is degraded; the cost of the service provided by second

service provider is less than the cost of the service provided by first service provider, the service provided by the second service provider has fewer advertisements, the service provided by second service provider is more secure.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, where ~~the~~ a switching criterion is determined based on a result of an auction system for providing said services.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, where ~~the~~ a switching criterion is determined based on a potential or predicted relative liability for providing said service.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, where ~~the~~ a switching criterion is determined based on one or more of: a relative ease of use for a plurality of users, a relative cognitive load or, the relative occurrence of SPAM.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 where the switching provider comprises one selected from the group comprising: a third party, a provider of the first service, a provider of the second service, a provider of both services, a software agent running on the user's computer, a service provider, a company, the government, a video or image content provider, an audio content provider, an insurance agency, a health care provider, an advertiser, a multimedia broadcaster or cable TV company, a game provider.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including the step of enabling said switching service provider to generate a fee for switching services, said fee being dependent upon any one or more of: nature of information presented, amount of information presented, type of service, number of times switching is used, quality of service, and user satisfaction level.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further including the step of determining a user satisfaction level according to biometrics obtained from and concerning the user.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, where the switching service is provided in a peer-to-peer file sharing system.

18. (Currently Amended) A system for real-time dynamic switching between a first service provider providing a Web-based service for users at a user's computer device over a communications network and a second service provider adapted for providing said service for users at a user's computer device, said system comprising:

a means for establishing switching criterion for deciding when to switch service provision between said first service provider and second service provider;

a computer-implemented means for automatically monitoring said communications network for determining satisfaction of said switching criterion compliance of service-level guarantees by said first service provider at said user's computer device; and,

a computer-implemented means responsive to determining non-compliance of said service-level guarantees, for locating a second service provider for providing said service according to said service-level guarantees, said means replicating state information associated with said user's use of said service provided by said first service provider at said user's computer device and terminating provision of said service provided by said first service provider; and, for switching service provision to said user's computer device from said between first and second service provided provider over said communications network based on satisfaction of said switching criterion and migrating said state information maintained up to the time of switching to said service provided by said second service provider.

wherein the switching occurs in a manner substantially transparent to the user.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, further comprising:

a means maintaining state information associated with said user's use of said service provided by said first service provider; and,

a means for migrating any state information maintained up to the time of switching to said second service, wherein the switching occurs in a manner substantially transparent to the user.

20. (Original) The system of claim 18, further comprising:

means for determining service fees to be charged by a switching service provider for providing said automatic switching; and,

means for communicating fee information to said user.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein said switching ~~step-e~~ is performed automatically without user knowledge.
22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein said switching ~~step-e~~ is performed at behest of a user or, upon a user providing approval for the switch when a switching criterion is satisfied.
23. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said user includes: an individual, or a group of individuals.
24. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said service provided to said users over a communications network includes a service for provisioning one or more of: text, multimedia content, images, broadcasts, recipes, functions for a computer, and sensory stimulations.
25. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the switching includes transfer of service properties.
26. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the first and second services are Web services, a service provided by the switching provider including a Web service.
27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, where ~~the a~~ switching criterion includes one or more selected from the group comprising: said first service provider is unavailable; the service provided by first service provider is degraded; the cost of the service provided by second service provider is less than the cost of the service provided by first service provider; the service provided by the second service provider has fewer advertisements; the service provided by second service provider is more secure; based on a result of an auction system for providing said services; based on a potential or predicted relative liability for providing said service; based on one or more of: a relative ease of use for a plurality of users, a relative cognitive load or, the relative occurrence of SPAM.

28. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the switching provider comprises one selected from the group comprising: a third party, a provider of the first service, a provider of the second service, a provider of both services, a software agent running on the user's computer, a service provider, a company, the government, a video or image content provider, an audio content provider, an insurance agency, a health care provider, an advertiser, a multimedia broadcaster or cable TV company, a game provider.

29. (Original) The system of claim 18, further including the step of enabling said switching service provider to generate a fee for switching services, said fee being dependent upon any one or more of: nature of information presented, amount of information presented, type of service, number of times switching is used, quality of service, and user satisfaction level.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29, further including the step of: means for obtaining biometric information relating to a user satisfaction level, said system including determining a fee for services according to biometrics obtained concerning the user.

31. – 35. (Canceled)